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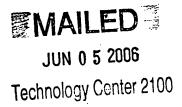
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 10/047,811
Filing Date: January 15, 2002
Appellant(s): FLETCHER ET AL.

Marcia L. Doubet, Reg. No. 40,999
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed March 10, 2006 appealing from the Office action

mailed August 11, 2005.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

This appeal involves claims 1-2, 10, and 12-14.

Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11 and 15-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 has been canceled.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

The following grounds of rejection are not presented for review on appeal because they have been withdrawn by the examiner. Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11 and 15-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) have been withdrawn.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

US 6,839,680   Liu et al.   01-2005

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-2, 10-12 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Liu et al. (U.S. 6,839,680).

Liu teaches a computer implemented method and system of provisioning an aggregated service

(724) in a computing network, comprising:

    • obtaining credentials of a user who requests to access an aggregated service; (abstract;

col.6, lines 39-56)

    • locating, in a network-accessible registry, a service description document specifying a

provisioning interface for the aggregated service, the aggregated service comprising an

aggregation of a plurality of sub-services and the provisioning interface specifying how to

invoke identity functions of the aggregated service; (724, fig.10 including an aggregation of

plurality of sub-services)

    •analyzing the obtained credentials by invoking one or more of the identity functions,

according to the specification thereof in the provisioning interface, to determine whether the user

is authenticated for, and/or is authorized for, accessing the aggregated service; (col.16, line 59- ;

"ProReach ensures the privacy of web visitors via what it calls an identity firewall. The purpose

of an identity firewall is to establish a boundary. Inside the boundary of the identity firewall,

the identity of a web visitor is accessible to authorized personnel or processes. Other personal

information is also available, such as e-mail address, home address and age. Outside the

boundary of the identity firewall, no data is provided that could be used to identify a web visitor.

Instead, any person or process requesting information outside an identity firewall, only gets an

opaque visitor identifier. The ProReach System that issues the opaque visitor identifier can use it

to uniquely identify the web visitor. Hence, an opaque visitor identifier is an externalizable

reference to ProReach visitors. A person or process with an opaque visitor identifier can present

the opaque visitor identifier to that ProReach System. The ProReach System can then map that

opaque visitor identifier back to the actual visitor. Using this method, it is possible for a web

marketer, for example, to be given a large amount of information about the interests of a web

visitor but the marketer doesn't know the visitor's identity or contact information. The web

marketer is simply given an opaque visitor identifier (or a set of such identifiers). The marketer

gets the data he needs, but the privacy of the visitor's data is maintained. So outside the identity

firewall, a web visitor being tracked by ProReach is anonymous.")

• allowing the user to access the aggregated service only if the analyzing step has a

useful result; (col.6, line 59-col.7, line 19)

•wherein implementation of each of the identity functions of the aggregated service is

provided by at least one of the sub-services; ("The   Aggregation System does the combining

using two subsystems.

(10) Response to Argument

Applicant argues that a prima-facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has not

been made, "the reference must teach <u>every aspect</u> of the claimed invention either explicitly or

impliedly".

In contrary, Prior art reference Liu et al. (U.S. 6,839,680) teaches the claimed limitations:

<u>In Claim 1:</u> A computer-implemented method of provisioning an aggregated service in a

computing network, comprising steps of:

• obtaining credentials of a user (**"Individual user profiles are then created for users**

automatically based on satisfaction of the user group membership rules", "This

information is also used to automatically update group membership and user profile

information"; abstract) who requests to access an aggregated service (**FIG. 10 illustrates the**

features of the aggregator service; "daily Aggregation System"; Referring to FIG. 10 "there

is shown an illustration of the components of the aggregation system 724. The aggregation

system 724 is generally responsible for various types of services. First, a Daily Aggregation

System 919 is responsible for generating daily aggregates from the web events that occur on the

web server 102. Second, a Dimensional Aggregation System 941 is responsible for combining

the daily aggregates by dimensional combining into the various User and Category complexes

illustrated in FIG. 2. Third, a User Group System 950 is responsible for defining and maintaining

definitions of user groups. A Profile Service 955 is responsible for maintaining individual user

profiles, and responding to queries regarding these aspects. All these services are within the

scope of the aggregation system 724.

The Daily Aggregation System comprises a Handler object 920, a Calculus object 922, a

Parser object 924, an Aggregator object 926. The aggregation queue 722 is also best understood

as being a entry point to the Daily Aggregation System 724 (and was illustrated separately in

FIGS. 7a-7d for convenience).

An Event Dispatcher 930 monitors all the activities within all the services of the

Aggregation System, and fires events to whoever is interested in listening to them. The Event

Dispatcher is not part of the services within the Aggregation System. It simply monitors and

overlook and watches all the activities going on inside the Aggregation System like a camera.

(185) The Daily Query object 932 is part of the Daily Aggregation System and is responsible for

all queries concerning daily aggregates. The Daily Query object handles all types of queries

regarding interests of users, as described above, including defining interests, and identifying

users having particular interests (on daily basis). Queries are processed by a query language

interpreter 944, which uses a query language 946. The handler 920 exports the interface of the

Daily Aggregation System, and manages the remaining components of the daily aggregation

service during the daily aggregation process of packets of web events.";

• locating (112), in a network-accessible registry ("**ProReach (202)** provides turnkey categories,

allowing the system to categorize web content as soon as ProReach is installed and running on a

particular web site. In one embodiment, the turnkey categories are provided from a central host

system that is in communication with a particular local ProReach system installation The host

ProReach system provides a comprehensive set of categories that target the practical information

needs of e-businesses, and it provides sample data for these categories."), a service description

document **(602 -Global Identifier, 610-Yellow Pages, 612-Global Exchange Policy, 608-**

Global Client Management, 604-Standard Category Tree) specifying a provisioning

interface for the aggregated service, the aggregated service comprising an aggregation of a

plurality of sub-services and the provisioning interface specifying how to invoke identity

functions of the aggregated service; **(various levels of sub-services of Fig.2; sub-services of**

103, 100, 112, and 110 of Fig.3; Hus & spokes (service & sub-services) of fig.4)

• analyzing the obtained credentials by invoking one or more of the identity functions, according

to the specification thereof in the provisioning interface, to determine whether the user is

authenticated for, and/or is authorized for, accessing the aggregated service; **("Identity**

firewall"; col.7, lines 12-18) and

• allowing the user to access the aggregated service only if the analyzing step has a successful

result. (it is inherent to allow a client to communicate to the network aggregation service system

after being authenticated via the Identity firewall.)

In Claim 2: The computer-implemented method according to Claim 1, wherein an

implementation of each of the identify functions of the aggregated service is provided by at least

one of the subservices. (Fig.10)

In Claim 10: The computer-implemented method according to Claim 1, wherein the service

description document is specified in a markup language. (html)

In Claim 12: The computer-implemented method according to Claim 2, wherein the network

accessible registry is accessed using standardized messages. (standardized messages of the

aggregation system 724)

In Claim 13: A system for provisioning an aggregated service in a computing network,

comprising: means for defining a provisioning interface of the aggregated service;

• means for specifying the provisioning interface in a service description document; (abstract)

• means for obtaining credentials of a user who requests to access an aggregated service;

("**Individual user profiles are then created for users automatically based on satisfaction of**

the user group membership rules", "**This information is also used to automatically update**

group membership and user profile information"; abstract)

• means for locating, in a network-accessible registry ("**ProReach (202)**, a service description

document specifying a provisioning interface for the aggregated service, the aggregated service

comprising an aggregation of a plurality of sub-services and the provisioning interface specifying

how to invoke identity functions of the aggregated service; (**various levels of sub-services of**

Fig.2; sub-services of 103, 100, 112, and 110 of Fig.3; Hus & spokes (service & sub-services)

of fig.4)

• means for analyzing the obtained credentials by invoking one or more of the identity functions,

according to the specification thereof in the provisioning interface, to determine whether the user

is authenticated for, and/or is authorized for, accessing the aggregated service; and (Identity

firewall.)

• means for allowing the user to access the aggregated service only if the means for analyzing

has a successful result. (it is inherent to allow a client to communicate to the network

aggregation service system after being authenticated via the Identity firewall.)

In Claim 14: A computer program product for provisioning an aggregated service in a computing

• computer-readable program code means for obtaining credentials of a user who requests to

access an aggregated service; (abstract; "individual profile", "user profile")

• computer-readable program code means for locating, in a network-accessible registry, a service

description document specifying a provisioning interface for the aggregated service, the

aggregated service comprising an aggregation of a plurality of sub-services and the provisioning

interface specifying how to invoke identity functions of the aggregated service; (**"Individual**

user profiles are then created for users automatically based on satisfaction of the user

group membership rules", "This information is also used to automatically update group

membership and user profile information"; abstract)

• computer-readable program code means for analyzing the obtained credentials by invoking one

or more of the identity functions, according to the specification thereof in the provisioning

interface, to determine whether the user is authenticated for, and/or is authorized for, accessing

the aggregated service; and (Identity firewall.)

• computer-readable program code means for allowing the user to access the aggregated service

only if the computer-readable program code means for analyzing has a successful result. (it is

inherent to allow a client to communicate to the network aggregation service system after being

authenticated via the Identity firewall.)

With respect to applicant argument Liu does not teach that the web sites, server, and domains are

in anyway aggregated to form an aggregated service. In contrary, Liu teaches an aggregated

service by allowing web visitors to visit a website or multiple websites (col.2, lines 27-44).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejection should be sustained.

                                                        Respectfully submitted,

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PRIMARY EXAMINER

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5/27/06

Conferees

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejection should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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